# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3142
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2006
PURCHASE OF DREDGER SHIPS
Saroj Shri Tufani

**Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has purchased 'Dredger Ships' for desilting the rivers recently;

(b) if so, the total number of 'Dredger Ships' purchased;

(c) the total amount spent on the purchase of these ships;

(d) the total number of 'Dredger Ships' with the Government presently;

(e) whether these 'Dredger Ships' are also used for the protection of cargo ships; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

## Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (c) : The Government is not directly involved in dredging operations, therefore, the Government has not purchased any dredgers. However, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), an autonomous body under the administrative control of the Government had purchased three dredgers in 2003-04 at a total cost of Rs.16.55 crores.

(d) At present, IWAI and Kolkata Port Trust own a total of 16 dredgers for dredging in the rivers. Besides, Dredging Corporation of India, a Public Sector Undertaking, owns 12 Dredger Ships which are mostly used for dredging in the navigation channels of Ports.
(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.